

Wide interest in 'Militant,' SWP at May Day protests

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The April 30-May 8 target week to boost the drive to expand the readership of the *Militant*, get out books by revolutionary working-class leaders and win contributions to the Militant Fighting Fund has gotten off to a good start.

Socialist Workers Party members participating in May Day activities found widespread interest in discussing how workers can defend themselves against boss attacks today and the stakes for working people in defeating Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

During the target week, party branches are taking additional steps to reach and go over their goals. The international drive ends May 17.

At a May Day event sponsored by the Dallas AFL-CIO, SWP members set up a campaign table and sold 12 subscriptions and 30 Pathfinder books.

Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for Congress in Texas, asked Ken Beckhusen what he thought about Moscow's

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Workers rally in over 35 US cities on Int'l Workers Day

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — Working people joined together in protests in more than 35 cities across the U.S. on International Workers Day May 1. Many of the actions — which ranged from a couple hundred to a few thousand — drew the connection between the fight to strengthen unions and organize the unorganized and the fight to protect immigrant workers from deportation.

A march of 800 people starting from New York's Washington Square, initiated by Laborers' union Local 79, which organizes construction workers, drew contingents from Teamsters-organized UPS workers; Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; Communications Workers of America; and the newly formed Amazon Labor Union. There were a dozen immigrant rights organizations, including Make the Road and New Immigrant Community Empowerment.

At a rally before the march started,

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Defend Ukraine independence! Moscow out of all of Ukraine!

Workers in Russia, Belarus protest Moscow's war



Opentv media-Dnipro

April 30 "Life will win" concert in Dnipro, Ukraine, subway station to celebrate fight against Moscow's invasion, express defiance. Many from harder-hit towns have taken refuge there.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow's invasion of Ukraine continues to face courageous resistance from the Ukrainian people, who are determined to prevent Russian forces

US troops, nuclear arms out of Europe! End US sanctions!

from conquering their country and to win back the territory Moscow has already seized. Russian forces continue pounding cities across Ukraine with shells, missiles and bombs.

In the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson, currently held by Russian forces, the mayor was ousted and replaced with a pro-Moscow puppet administration. The Kremlin is imposing the Russian ruble there in place of the Ukrainian currency. But these

US capitalist rulers face political crisis; Workers need our own political party!

BY TERRY EVANS

Despite overwhelming bipartisan agreement on the U.S. rulers' efforts to advance their imperialist interests amid Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, the bosses' two main parties — the Democrats and Republicans — remain embroiled in deep division and crisis.

The capitalist rulers can't depend on either of these parties to provide a stable government and advance a self-confident course to defend their class interests against working people at home or their rivals abroad.

Neither party offers any way to reverse today's growing "stagflation" —

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moves have done nothing to quell residents' resolve to press Russian forces to get out. They held another protest against the occupation of the city April 28.

Moscow's forces have the city of Mariupol surrounded, with many trapped under heavy bombardment. Some 2,000 Ukrainian fighters holding out in the huge steel works are re-

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Protests in Grand Rapids: 'Arrest cop who killed Patrick Lyoya!'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Demonstrations protesting the killing of Patrick Lyoya in Grand Rapids, Michigan, have been taking place every evening at 6 p.m., Lakyra Price-Sanders told the *Militant* in a phone interview April 29. "We're continuing to do what we can to bring awareness to the case and get justice." Marches have also tak-

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Cuban people join May Day march to defend their socialist revolution



Granma/Juvenal Balan Neyra

Contingent of health care workers along with students from international medical school at May Day march in Havana. Center banner says, "Long live international solidarity."

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — More than 600,000 working people marched here May 1, International Workers Day, and hundreds of thousands more paraded through other cities and towns, big and small, across Cuba.

It was a massive, celebratory expression by Cuba's working people of pride in their socialist revolution and their ability to resist the intensified U.S. economic war they have withstood for more than six decades.

Workers brought banners identifying their workplaces, schools and unions, as well as thousands of handmade signs.

A major source of pride was how, despite shortages of medicine and raw materials, largely due to U.S. sanctions, some 90% of the island's population has been inoculated against COVID with effective vaccines developed and produced here. Cuban health care volunteers have also re-

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Workers from Latin America, US meet in Cuba, discuss way forward

BY PHILIPPE TESSIER
AND RACHELE FRUIT

HAVANA — “Since you haven’t had a chance to attend the book fair during your stay here, we decided to bring a piece of it to you,” said Odalys Cárdenas of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC). She was speaking April 26 to a group of 50 visiting trade unionists from Brazil, Colombia, Panama and Uruguay who were taking a weeklong course sponsored by the CTC’s Education Department and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Cárdenas introduced Róger Calero and Rachele Fruit from the Socialist Workers Party and Philippe Tessier from the Communist League in Canada, who were volunteering at the Pathfinder Books stand at the Havana International Book Fair. They talked about their experiences as socialist workers in the U.S. and Canada, and about some of the books Pathfinder brought to the fair, which take up lessons from the struggles of working people worldwide, including Cuba’s socialist revolution, and offer a revolutionary working-class perspective.

In particular, Calero focused on the two books Pathfinder presented with panels at the book fair — *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation and Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History*. He also described these books by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes: *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party*; *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*; and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and*

the Road to Workers Power.

The unionists were eager to browse through the books and discuss developments in the class struggle in the U.S. and Canada, the worldwide economic and social crisis of capitalism, Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, and resistance by working people to attacks by bosses and their governments. During the exchange, which continued over lunch, they and some workers at the CTC center purchased some 80 books.

Aldemar González, a leader of Sintraemsdes, a public employees union in Colombia, pointed to recent assassinations of Colombian trade union leaders by the thugs of big landowners, mining companies and drug lords. “We’ve organized actions together with farmers and indigenous communities, who face the same enemies,” he said.

He found of particular interest the four-volume series containing lessons of the strikes and organizing battles waged by the Minneapolis Teamsters in the 1930s. Those experiences include how the trucking workers, with a class-struggle leadership, defeated fascist thugs backed by local bosses, and how they organized unemployed workers and forged an alliance with working farmers. He bought the series, written by Farrell Dobbs, a central leader of these battles, who became a leader of the Socialist Workers Party.

Irán Botello, of the National Workers Federation of Panama (CNTP), said they are engaged in a fight against government moves to increase the retirement age and workers’ minimum-required contribution to pensions.



Militant/Rachele Fruit

Socialist Workers Party member Róger Calero talking with trade unionists from Latin America during a course by Central Organization of Cuban Workers in Havana April 26. Pathfinder books on display at Havana International Book Fair were made available to the participants.

Funding for medical services provided by Panama’s social security institute is completely inadequate to meet workers’ needs. “The amount we pay is going up, and it takes a long time to get service even if you qualify,” he said.

“Workers in Canada face similar attacks on our wages, benefits and job conditions,” said Tessier, a train conductor at Canadian National. He described some of the discussions about how to fight effectively that Communist League members there have with fellow workers.

Tamara González, a CTC course facilitator, was looking at a display of photos the socialists brought of strikes and other recent working-class struggles in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere. One thing that particularly caught her attention was a quote stating that to defend their interests workers need not only to form unions, but to break with the political parties of the capitalist bosses and organize their own labor party. “This is something we will have to discuss more in the training course,” she said.

Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidates

California

Eleanor García, US Senate
Joel Britton, Governor

Florida

Rachele Fruit, Governor

Georgia

Lisa Potash, US Senate
Sam Manuel, Governor

Illinois

John Hawkins, US Senate
Naomi Craine, Governor

Minnesota

Gabrielle Prosser, Governor
Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor
David Rosenfeld, US Congress

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniarsky, US Congress
Lea Sherman, US Congress

Nebraska

Joe Swanson, US Congress

New York

Sara Lobman, US Senate

Ohio

Samir Hazboun, US Senate

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate
Candace Wagner, Governor

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, Governor
Gerardo Sánchez, US Congress

Washington, DC

James Harris, Mayor
Arlene Rubinstein, Delegate to House

Washington state

Henry Dennison, US Senate

The Militant

Vol. 86/No. 19

Closing news date: May 4, 2022

Editor: John Studer

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Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in August, one week in September.

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

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THE MILITANT

No worker has to die on the job!

The ‘Militant’ reports on and builds support for today’s fights for safety on the job. Organizing unions — and using them — to demand an end to forced overtime, speedup and understaffing, and to fight for workers control of production, are essential to make this a reality.



Bibiana Arellano Delabra, 22, was killed on job April 16 at North Carolina bakery.

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Interest in ‘Militant’ on May Day

Continued from front page war. “It’s a disaster,” replied Beckhusen, an artist studying to be a painting teacher. “It has been decades in the making, going back to George Bush.” Washington’s expansion of its NATO military alliance, he said, “provoked Russia to invade Ukraine.”

“Russian President Vladimir Putin didn’t invade because of NATO expansion,” Sánchez said. Putin says he wants to eliminate Ukraine as a country and take it and its resources for Moscow. “My party supports the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and demands Moscow’s troops get out.” The SWP also demands the U.S. rulers get their troops and nuclear missiles out of Europe.

“The SWP doesn’t support Washington’s sanctions against Russia,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for governor of Texas, said, joining the discussion. “Regardless of their ‘target,’ they hit the working class hardest.”

Beckhusen decided to get a *Militant* subscription and purchased *Thomas Sankara Speaks* and *New Internationals* no. 7 and 11.

Kennedy addressed the crowd, defending Ukraine’s independence. She pointed to “what is taking place in the labor movement today. We should celebrate the victory of Amazon workers winning a union in Staten Island, New York, and back the fight by United Mine Workers on strike for over a year against Warrior Met Coal’s drive to break the union in Alabama.”

M.P. Britt, a small rancher from Decatur, Texas, also came to the event. “Prices for everything have gone up,” Britt told Kennedy, “especially for tractors and hay balers. You can’t afford new equipment and can’t find parts for old equipment. And we’ve had a drought for over a year.”

Kennedy explained what was accomplished when workers and farmers in Cuba forged an alliance, made a revolution and took political power into their own hands. The revolutionary government nationalized the land, providing it to those who wanted to till it and preventing land being used as a commodity to be bought and sold at a profit.

On April 30, Kennedy campaigned in a working-class neighborhood in Ft. Worth, where she met Manuel Hernandez, a 37-year-old roofer, and they discussed how to win control over safety on the job. “I saw a worker killed when he fell 25 stories off a roof in downtown Dallas,” Hernandez said. “The worker’s safety harness broke.”

“Our party says no worker has to die on the job,” Kennedy said. “I worked in a mine that was very dangerous. The Mine Safety and Health Administration just worked with the company and they got away with safety violations.”

She described the mass movement of miners and their families in the early 1970s that “won a stronger union and the right to withdraw from unsafe working conditions.”

“The rich companies pay the inspectors off,” Hernandez said.

He asked Kennedy to stop by later in the week when he will get a *Militant* subscription and some books by Socialist Workers Party leaders.

In Minneapolis, teacher

Liz Therkildsen was glad to meet SWP members at the May Day festivities. “You folks were at our rallies and pickets and wrote about our fight in your newspaper,” she told SWP member Edwin Fruit, referring to the strike by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers in March. “I know you had asked me to subscribe to the *Militant* and I think it is time to do so now.” Fruit told her about plans to collect signatures May 17-31 to place the party’s candidates on the ballot in Minnesota.

‘Amnesty for all immigrants in U.S.’

Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for Illinois governor, spoke with construction worker Mario Jimenez at the May Day action in Chicago, attended by about 200 people. “We want legal permission to work in this country,” he said. “And we want rights on the job. There’s a lot of abuse and discrimination against immigrant workers.”

“The SWP campaigns for amnesty for all immigrants who live and work in this country,” Craine said. “Unions need to back this fight to strengthen the unity and solidarity of the entire working class.” Jimenez picked up a copy of the *Militant*.

At the May Day march and festival in Manchester, England, four people got *Militant* subscriptions and 31 books were sold by members and supporters of the Communist League. A student who wanted to know more about communists’ defense of the rights of oppressed nations to self-determination got a copy of *Lenin’s Final Fight* and Leon Trotsky’s *The History of the Russian Revolution*.

In Philadelphia, Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania, met construction worker Adrian Andrade at an immigrant rights march



Militant/Janet Post

At the Philadelphia May Day event, Osborne Hart, right, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Pennsylvania, talks to construction worker Adrian Andrade. “We work really hard for very little pay,” Andrade said as he subscribed to the *Militant*.

and celebration of more than 300 people. “My co-workers and I work really hard for very little pay,” he told Hart. “There is a lot of work, but they always want us to hurry up the construction — on to the next house, the next building.”

“Workers can find jobs, but there is a lot of speedup, wages are low and everything costs more because of inflation,” Hart said. Andrade got a *Militant* subscription to learn more about what workers can do together to defend ourselves from the bosses’ assaults.

At a number of these actions individuals who purchased subscriptions and picked up books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries also made contributions toward the \$165,000 *Militant* Fighting Fund. The *Militant* depends on donations from working people to cover production expenses and take advantage of opportunities to reach out with the paper more broadly.

To help expand the reach of the *Militant*, contact the SWP nearest you, list-

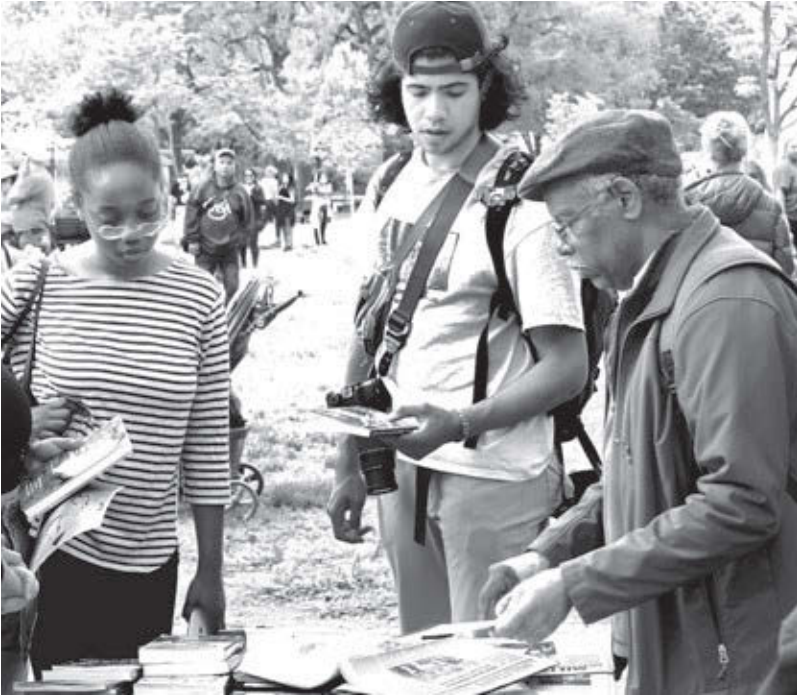
ed on page 8. To contribute to the *Militant* Fighting Fund, make out a check to the *Militant* and send it to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, or donate online at themilitant.com.

Josefina Otero in Dallas-Ft. Worth contributed to this article.

Join May 17-31
Socialist Workers Party
campaigning and ballot
drive in Minnesota!

Gabrielle Prosser for governor;
Kevin Dwire for lt. governor
David Rosenfeld, U.S. Congress

Anyone interested in helping should contact: SWP Minnesota campaign (612) 271-1930 or swpminneapolis@gmail.com 2401-1/2 Central Ave., NE, Unit B, Minneapolis, MN 55418



Militant photos: top, Ruth Nebbia; bottom, Josefina Otero

Top, James Harris, right, SWP candidate for Washington, D.C., mayor, discusses *Militant* and books by SWP, other revolutionary leaders with participants at May Day rally in Lafayette Park. Bottom, SWP campaigner George Chalmers, right, talks to roofer Manuel Hernandez April 30 in Ft. Worth, Texas, about job safety. He wants a return visit to subscribe, get books.

Campaign to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ books, fund						
March 12-May 17 (week seven)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	35	27	60	41	\$8,500	\$5,251
Atlanta	90	65	90	66	\$11,500	\$6,768
Chicago	125	93	125	96	\$14,000	\$8,874
Cincinnati*	90	54	90	60	\$5,800	\$3,673
Dallas-Ft. Worth*	70	71	70	84	\$4,700	\$3,624
Lincoln	15	17	15	16	\$400	\$304
Los Angeles*	130	130	155	150	\$14,500	\$7,865
Miami	35	27	35	54	\$5,000	\$3,000
Minneapolis	70	64	70	68	\$5,500	\$4,032
N. New Jersey	90	80	90	82	\$7,250	\$4,528
New York	125	102	125	121	\$17,500	\$15,399
Oakland	100	89	100	98	\$14,000	\$12,577
Philadelphia	40	25	40	36	\$4,250	\$4,090
Pittsburgh	50	45	50	35	\$5,000	\$3,361
Seattle	70	56	70	55	\$13,000	\$8,761
Washington	65	53	65	61	\$5,000	\$4,470
Other		20		144		\$0
Total U.S.	1200	1018	1250	1267	\$135,900	\$96,577
Prisoners	45	65				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London*	55	52	60	52	\$4,000	\$2,585
Manchester*	50	47	50	72	\$2,000	\$1,400
Total U.K.	105	99	110	124	\$6,000	\$3,985
Canada	110	84	110	82	\$13,670	\$10,384
New Zealand	35	29	35	24	\$4,000	\$2,980
Australia	35	27	35	18	\$2,500	\$1,200
Total	1,530	1,322	1,540	1,515	\$162,070	\$115,126
SHOULD BE	1,600	1,232	1,600	1,232	\$165,000	\$127,050
*Raised goal. Other includes 19 subs, 144 books at LA Festival						

Rallies in over 35 US cities

Continued from front page

Christine Culpepper, a leader of Local 79, welcomed the crowd, noting that “throughout history workers have united to demand safe conditions and better wages,” while the state has been used “to crush workers’ struggles.”

“International Workers Day is a day to remember those struggles for dignity and justice at work,” she said. “The fight to improve the life of all workers continues today.”

Angelika Maldonado, a longtime Amazon worker who is helping to lead the union-organizing effort at the company’s Staten Island warehouses, addressed the ending rally in Foley Square. Although workers at the JFK8 warehouse voted overwhelmingly for the union, Amazon bosses are challenging the election and refusing to negotiate a contract.

Amazon pressures workers to meet intense production quotas “even when a woman is pregnant, or disabled or didn’t get proper training,” she said, adding that workers there feel pressure to go to work sick, or when their children are sick, because they fear losing their job.

“There is no reason why people who work for Amazon, immigrant or not, should be scared to fight to get better benefits and a better place to work,” she said. “We should have a union, we should have a better raise, better time off. People over profit!”

Diana Moreno, executive director of New Immigrant Community Empowerment, told the rally, “Immigrants and citizens all see ourselves in solidarity with each other.” Several speakers pointed to the importance of backing organizing drives from Amazon to Starbucks, where workers at over 20 stores have voted for union representation.

Farmworkers: ‘Water, shade, rest!’

Farmworkers were prominent at several actions. A march of more than 400 in Miami was led by a contingent of farmworkers marching behind a banner in Spanish demanding, “Water, shade, and rest.”

In Skagit County, Washington, hundreds of farmworkers and others carried signs saying, “Farmworkers feed you” and “Migrants and workers of the world unite,” at a march initiated by Familias Unidas por la Justicia, a farmworkers union.

Workers for app-based taxi services joined many of the marches. Lyft driver Stephen Hoth, a member of the Drivers Union, told the press at the May Day

march of 200 in Seattle, “We’re tired of living under the constant threat of losing our jobs.” He moved to Kent, Washington, after Uber abruptly deactivated his account in Nebraska. “Imagine Uber is your only source of income and they just get rid of you,” he said, “just like that.”

“We have no benefits and no sick days,” Uber driver Luz Laguna told the *Militant*, when asked why she was at the march of more than 1,000 in Los Angeles, which included contingents from at least 10 unions.

Abel Cortinas, an organizer with SMART Local 105, which organizes metalworkers, said at the Los Angeles march that for members of his local “safety is a big concern. Equality of jobs for women also.”

Among the largest actions were those in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C., each of which had several thousand participants.

The mostly immigrant action in Washington, D.C., attracted sizable contingents from Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Virginia, along with some who came from Colorado and California. Many carried handmade signs in English and Spanish, saying, “Justice for Immigrants,” “Papers yes, crumbs no,” and calling for the right to apply for citizenship.

“I’m here to support my sisters and brothers who don’t have the ‘right’ papers,” Antonio Gonzalez from Brockton, Massachusetts, told the *Militant*. “I’m against the deportations. I’m for immigrants having driver’s licenses.” Pointing to the White House he said, “President Biden hasn’t done anything to support immigrants.”

Among the many union contingents at the May Day march and rally in San Francisco were hotel workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 2. Many hotels laid off large numbers of workers during the pandemic. To avoid calling them all back, the bosses have encouraged hotel guests to say they don’t need their rooms cleaned every day. “Don’t believe what they say — that this is about climate or the pandemic,” Tiffany Yu, a housekeeper at a Hilton Hotel, told the *Militant*. “It’s all about their profits and cutting our jobs.”

Among the speakers at the rally was B.K. White, vice president of United Steelworkers Local 5, which is on strike at the Chevron refinery in Richmond, California.

“What happens at Chevron has an effect on all of us,” Safeway grocery worker Kelly Kick, a member of the United Food and Commercial Work-



Top: Militant/Ruth Nebbia; bottom, AP/Ahn Young-joon
Top, Washington, D.C., participants in May Day march. Below, May 1 action in Seoul, South Korea, included Korean Federation of Trade Unions. Signs read, “Stop! anti-labor policy.”

ers union, told the *Militant*. “They need solidarity.”

Workers also marched and rallied around the world — in Sri Lanka, where they’re fighting to bring down the government; in Paris, Istanbul and in Athens; Brazil and South Korea. Many called for steps to defend workers from the scourge of soaring infla-

tion. The largest march was in Cuba, where Cuban workers and farmers celebrated their socialist revolution.

Deborah Liatos in Los Angeles; Betsey Stone in Oakland, California; Steve Warshell in Miami; and Omari Musa in Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.

Pathfinder books get interest at London Book Fair



Militant/Mary Ellen Marus

LONDON — Volunteers from five countries staffed the Pathfinder booth at the first London Book Fair in three years April 5-7. Their goal was to expand the distribution of books that present the lessons of decades of revolutionary working-class struggle, by Karl Marx, Fidel Castro, leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and others.

Over 15,000 people from more than 100 countries attended, largely bookstore buyers, publishers, authors, and translators. The Pathfinder booth drew interest from visitors across Europe, Africa and beyond. Like many exhibitors, it featured a display of the publisher’s books relating to Moscow’s war on Ukraine. Pathfinder’s titles help readers understand why Moscow invaded and the long history of the Ukrainian toilers’ fight for self-determination.

Top-selling titles included *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon, as well as books by Thomas Sankara, leader of the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso. Many buyers took information on Pathfinder to consider and 30 titles were sold from the booth, including two copies of the Chinese edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

— MARY ELLEN MARUS



Militant/Mike Shur

Construction workers’ contingent from Laborers Local 79 at May Day march in New York City.

Cubans defend their revolution

Continued from front page

sponded to appeals from governments in other countries to help combat the pandemic there. In recognition of that feat, more than 50,000 health care workers formed the lead contingent.

There were also large contingents from unions affiliated to the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), from construction workers and teachers to airport employees and food workers. Also marching were groups of students, artists, musicians, and a delegation from Havana's Jewish community, as well as thousands who came on their own.

A few days before the action, Idia Ruiz Rodríguez, a member of the national leadership of the National Association of Small Farmers, told the *Militant*, "On May Day, farmers and workers will march together. We'll show the world the alliance of workers and farmers, who are the foundation, the real face of the revolution." The photo on this page captures that contingent, marching behind a banner declaring, "Long live the worker-farmer alliance."

Many workers marching on May Day told the *Militant*, "Yes, of course,

we face a lot of problems today. But here we are, look at all of us!"

Herminio Fernández, director of a small CTC-run hotel for union members, said the massive turnout was a blow to the U.S. government's propaganda campaign to discredit the Cuban Revolution. "We gave the imperialists a *galleta*, a slap in the face," he said with a big smile.

Right and below, Havana May Day march. Banner below says, "Long live the Worker Peasant Alliance," key to Cuba's socialist revolution. While largest May Day action was in Havana, similar actions took place all across the island. Bottom left, May Day march in Holguín.



Militant/Martin Koppel



ANAP



Granma/Miguel Febles Hernández

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 19, 1997

HAVANA — Cubans poured into the streets leading to Revolution Plaza here on May Day. About 1.3 million demonstrated in Havana. Altogether, several million people turned out across the nation, in one of the largest mobilizations here in years.

It was the most visible rejection of U.S. imperialism's attempts to divide working people from their revolutionary leadership and force the Cuban people to submit to Washington's dictates through economic strangulation.

"Will the exploiters be able to return and take away our land, our homes, our factories, our hospitals, and our schools?" said Pedro Ross, general secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) in a brief speech. "Will we workers go back to being slaves, under the whip of the capitalist boss, to fill the pockets of a bourgeois minority with the product of our sweat?"

The cry of "No!" resonated through the vast square.



May 19, 1972

NEW YORK — "Women unite — abortion is our right!" This was the chant of 1,500 demonstrators, mostly young women, who marched here on May 6 against attacks by President Nixon and anti-abortion forces on the right to abortion in New York.

The demonstration was one of more than a dozen spirited actions nationwide called by the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition around the demands of repeal of all anti-abortion and restrictive contraception laws and an end to forced sterilization.

WONAAC national coordinator Dr. Barbara Roberts stressed that "only a massive, independent women's movement can save our sisters from butchery. Only by uniting in spite of our differences will we win for all women the right to choose."

Actions around the country, although smaller, reflected the same enthusiasm and militancy as the New York demonstration.



May 17, 1947

The Spanish workers have dealt a stiff blow to Franco's fascist regime. Work stoppages occurred throughout Spain on May Day. The Franco regime singled out the Basque workers of Bilbao for reprisals. For two days the workers had shut down tight the great steel mills, mines and shipyards.

Provincial Governor Riesta ordered mass arrests, but the strike remained solid. Then he decreed that workers who had participated were to lose seniority rights, suffer pay cuts and lose pension rights.

The strike spread to other Basque cities. Guipúzcoa province was the scene of sympathy strikes which closed munition, sewing machine and bicycle plants.

The *N. Y. Times* reports that, "Whatever penalties individuals may suffer, the workers in general have scored in a way that observers would not have believed possible in defiance of the iron-fisted Franco police system."

UK pallet workers celebrate gains

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England — "We are proud, many thought this wasn't achievable but we stuck together to the end," strike leader Gary Walker told the *Militant* April 27 as workers at the Trafford Park warehouse here celebrated their victory over CHEP, which rents out pallets to major manufacturers worldwide.

Unite union members April 14 had voted down by 89% a weaker offer from the bosses. After 19 weeks on strike, the longest strike by Unite in 15 years, the 66 union members voted to accept an improved offer and returned to work April 28.

Workers won a 9% total raise for this

and last year, substantially more than CHEP's original offer, a 1,000 pound bonus (\$1,260), and three extra holidays for this year. "The other U.K. CHEP sites got the rise too, because of our action," reported striker Martin Rae.

Workers say they are in a stronger position to push for parity between the Manchester plant and CHEP's Pontefract, Yorkshire, plant, where workers get higher pay. The bosses agreed to address this during next year's negotiations.

"The divisions between different sites has been a bone of contention for years," Walker said. "We face a big company, they divide us, but now we'll be working to build on the links we made during the strike between sites to establish a multi-union combine. We even made contact during the strike with CHEP workers in New Zealand, who also had a strike."

"The solidarity we gained was eye opening, I just didn't realize the support we would get from other workers and unions," Walker said. "Every day we'd have people come by our picket line."

The strikers also gave solidarity, sending delegations to picket lines and protests by other workers, including striking railway cleaners at Manchester Piccadilly and bus drivers in Oldham and protests at Liverpool docks after the sacking of 800 P&O ferry workers.

The last solidarity march the CHEP strikers held April 13 was joined by bus drivers from Queens Road depot, including Tracey Scholes. The union had pushed back a move to sack her after an 11-week strike in 2021. CHEP strikers had joined protests supporting Scholes.

"In the beginning I was doubtful, it was my first strike," said Isiah Freitas, as strikers took down their picket shack, "but we kept getting stronger and I think unity is everything, I learned we can move mountains if we fight."

Striker Andy Aspinall said, "Some workers used to say what does the union do for you, but now we've got a voice, seen what we can do as a union, we've got confidence now."

Defend Ukraine independence!

Continued from front page

sisting a complete takeover of the city, accompanied by many civilians.

The Kremlin has sent units, depleted from defeats in conflicts around Kyiv, the capital, to the east and added fresh conscripts. But Ukrainian resistance and counterattacks have blocked Russian forces from linking up to encircle Kyiv's forces.

"The Socialist Workers Party is for the defeat and withdrawal of Moscow's troops from Ukraine," Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for governor of Texas, said May 3. "The defense of their sovereignty by working people in Ukraine has inspired solidarity from workers and farmers all over the world, from Russia to the United States."

Ukraine secured independence in 1991 when the Stalinist regimes across the former Soviet Union disintegrated. The mass uprising in 2014 that ousted the pro-Moscow regime of Viktor Yanukovich and the subsequent seizure of Crimea by Moscow, reinforced support for the country's sovereignty among millions. But the yearning for independence goes back much further.

For centuries the Ukrainian people were subjugated under the rule of the Russian czars.

The workers and farmers government that came to power following the Bolshevik-led 1917 Russian Revolution granted Ukraine self-determination. In the years that followed, the Red Army fought to liberate Ukraine from counterrevolutionary forces trying to reimpose the rule of the landlords and capitalists. That victorious struggle and the impact of the overturn of capitalist social relations in the east deepened feelings of national pride among all Ukrainian working people.

Those gains were overturned in a counterrevolution headed by Joseph Stalin. Today Putin's capitalist regime is trying to crush Ukraine. He wants to restore the prison house of nations like under czarism, with himself at its head.

US rulers use war to boost interests

Weeping crocodile tears for Ukrainian people, the U.S. and other imperialist rulers from Germany to Australia are sanctioning Russia and using the war to expand rearmament programs in preparation for future

conflicts and wars. At the same time, they say price hikes and job losses at home are a product of Putin's war, and they demand greater sacrifices by working people.

"The SWP demands the U.S. government gets its forces and nuclear weapons out of Europe," Kennedy said. "We also oppose the sanctions, which, whoever they target, fall heaviest on working people in Russia. They cut across building solidarity between working people here, in Ukraine and in Russia."

Added to the mounting costs of the war, annual consumer inflation in Russia rose to nearly 17% in March, the biggest rise since 1999 as economic output shrinks.

Russia's giant state-owned Gazprom cut off natural gas piped to Poland and Bulgaria April 27 after the two governments refused Moscow's demand to pay in rubles. The Kremlin threatens to extend this action to other countries in Europe that don't comply.

Moscow's Jew-hatred

In a Jew-hating tirade, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov compared Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is Jewish, to Hitler May 1. He added, "The biggest antisemites are the Jews themselves." The next day, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid condemned Lavrov's remarks as "an unforgivable and outrageous statement as well as a terrible historical error."

The Kremlin then attacked the Israeli government for "supporting the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv," echoing slanders made by Putin at the start of the war.

Up to now the Israeli government has been careful not to criticize Moscow, hoping Putin will continue to acquiesce to Israeli forces' attacks on Tehran's militias based in Syria that threaten Israel.

A March 3 statement by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP on behalf of the party's national committee, explains Putin is "himself a product of Russia's notoriously Jew-hating secret police, formerly called the KGB." The statement notes that Russian missiles desecrated a Jewish cemetery March 2, at Babyn Yar, the site of the slaughter of more than 30,000 Jews by Nazi forces during World War II.

In Belarus, opposition is grow-

Workers organize nationwide strike in Sri Lanka



Reuters/Dinuka Liyanavatte

A one-day nationwide strike in Sri Lanka April 28 demanded that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resign. The strike comes amid weeks of protests in this island nation over rising inflation, power outages and shortages of food and fuel.

"Costs are increasing every day, businesses are closing and people have no way to live," bank teller Samantha Ekanayake told Reuters. "There is no fuel, when we go home there is no electricity and no cooking gas to make meals."

Teachers and train drivers joined the mass walkout, the first nationwide strike by the trade unions since 1980. Across the country vegetable markets were closed. Workers from vital tea and rubber plantations and garment factories joined the action. In Colombo, the capital, workers marched chanting, "Go home Gota. Go home Gota," referring to the president. More than 100 trade unions, some affiliated to the Rajapaksa's ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party, joined the strike.

Unable to cover interest payments to wealthy bondholders on the government's \$51 billion public debt, Sri Lankan officials are requesting up to \$4 billion in new credit from the International Monetary Fund. But the IMF has made clear that a loan is contingent on tax hikes and spending cuts on social programs, which would hit working people the hardest.

The country's trade union officials have threatened an open-ended strike starting May 6 if the president and the government do not resign.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

ing to President Alexander Lukashenko's backing for Putin's war. In 2020 strikes and mass protests swept the country after Lukashenko falsely claimed that he won the presidential election. The protests were brutally suppressed by his regime with backing from Putin.

But since the war began hundreds of Belarusians have signed up to fight alongside Ukrainian forces to repel Putin's invaders, and as a way to strike a blow at Lukashenko as well. Others disrupted rail lines supplying Putin's forces.

Belarus, Russia, Ukraine unions

The Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions condemned Moscow's invasion and calls for "the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, as well as from Belarus."

Police arrested some 20 leaders of the independent Belarusian union April 19.

The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine praised the jailed unionists for their stand and called for their release, as did the Confederation of Labor of Russia, which opposes Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"Intensification of the conflict threatens a devastating shock," the Confederation of Labor of Russia said in a statement, which "would open the door to a massive wave of breaches of working citizens' labor rights."

The Putin regime tried to quell countrywide protests at the beginning of the war, arresting thousands, including hundreds in Novosibirsk, a Siberian city of 1.5 million, 2,000 miles east of Moscow. Everywhere, those taking action faced not only

finances and detention but getting fired from jobs or expelled from studies.

Despite this, students, teachers and other employees at Novosibirsk State University issued a public appeal calling for an immediate end to the war, the withdrawal of Russian troops and an investigation of war crimes by the Kremlin. By April 27, 133 people had signed the appeal, with numbers growing since, including several members of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

A garbage collectors strike in the city at the end of April over the doubling of workers' hours without pay went on for days, undeterred by Putin's wartime clampdown.

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Chinese workers seethe over Shanghai COVID lockdown

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Weeks of rising anger toward government officials in response to severe COVID restrictions and accompanying food shortages spurred protests in Shanghai at the end of April.

Dozens of residents in Jinze, a Shanghai suburb, marched through the streets demanding food. Residents in one area found a government storage site full of rotting vegetables that were not delivered to hungry families and smashed them in the street. Another group accused officials of stealing after storming a local government office and finding piles of rice and cooking oil.

A synchronized banging of pots and pans from many apartment buildings protested these conditions April 28, despite police threats against organizers and official claims the action was instigated by "hostile foreign forces."

Most families in the city center can only send one person out of the house twice a week, in search of medicine, food and other necessities. Testing is compulsory and anyone infected is forced into unsanitary, crowded quarantine facilities.

The truth about these conditions — including shortages of daily necessities and medical access for many of the city's 26 million residents — has spread across China despite enormous efforts by the government to silence it.

One six-minute video, "Voices of April," captures the sounds of residents demanding food, the cries of COVID-positive children in quarantine separated from their parents, and the pleas of a son repeatedly rejected by hospitals as he sought treatment for his critically ill father. The video was censored, but just as quickly people found new ways to get it back online, and it was widely viewed.

Railroad workers protest BNSF attack on unions and conditions

BY JOE SWANSON

OMAHA, Neb. — For three hours in a cold rain April 3, over 40 working train conductors and locomotive engineers, members of the SMART-Transportation Division and the Brotherhood of Loco-



Working people protested eviction from their homes in Shanghai, mid-April, as apartment block was turned into COVID isolation facility. They were removed by cops in protective suits.

One method involved a video of SpongeBob SquarePants watching TV, which was showing "Voices of April."

Throughout the pandemic the Chinese government has used harsh lockdowns, compulsory testing and quarantining and border closures. None of these measures prevented the recent spread of the Omicron variant.

Cases began rising in March in the northeastern province of Jilin. The area has now been locked down for more than 50 days and residents subjected to 40 rounds of citywide COVID testing.

Full or partial lockdowns are now in place in more than two dozen cities, affecting up to 180 million people. Shanghai has been at the center of the latest outbreak, reporting more than half a million cases since March 1. This led to China's unemployment hitting a 21-month high in

March with many businesses, including Volkswagen, Tesla and iPhone assembly plants, forced to suspend operations in many locations.

Student poems of protest

Throughout the lockdown people have fought to get heard. A student poetry competition at Shanghai's Jiaotong University became an outlet for public anger. Poems on the lockdown, freedom of speech and the war in Ukraine struck a chord. The university quickly pulled the poems down, but many popped up elsewhere on the internet.

Despite the protests, the government has not backed down on its repression. On April 23, Chinese social media was flooded with photos of workers installing five-foot-high fences outside some

May Day rallies across France protest Macron gov't



Alain Pitton/NurPhoto via AP

Some 250 rallies took place across France on May Day, with over 100,000 people protesting the anti-working-class policies of the newly reelected government of President Emmanuel Macron, especially his plan to raise the retirement age from 62 to 65. Among popular banners were, above, "Yellow vests of all countries unite!" "Retirement at 60, freeze prices" and "Macron get out."

Despite a victory of 58.5% in the April 24 runoff election against 41.5% for his right-wing challenger, Marine Le Pen, Macron had to acknowledge France "is riddled with so many doubts, so many divisions." Some 28% of voters abstained, the highest percentage in more than 50 years.

Most of the left parties, like the Communists and Socialists, called for a vote for Macron, claiming Le Pen had to be defeated. Jean-Luc Melenchon, who came in third in the first round of the presidential vote with 22% by winning support of many workers and those to the left of the CP, refused to back Macron. He told his supporters though to "not give a single vote" to Le Pen.

Workers and youth at the May Day actions aimed their fire at the government. "It is important to show Macron and the whole political world that we are prepared to defend our social rights," 19-year-old student Joshua Antunes told the press.

On the eve of May Day, CGT union head Philippe Martinez demanded the government "deal with the purchasing power problem by raising wages."

— SETH GALINSKY

"I declare war to the death on Great Russian chauvinism."

Lenin's Final Fight

"It must be absolutely insisted that the union Central Executive Committee should be presided over in turn by a Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, etc. Absolutely!"

— V.I. Lenin, 1922

In 1922 and 1923 Lenin waged his last political battle. At stake was whether the revolution would remain on the proletarian course that had brought workers and peasants to power.

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Get and read ‘Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity’

Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History by Frederick Engels, Karl Marx, George Novack and Mary-Alice Waters; 177 pages, Pathfinder Press, 2021.

BY BETSEY STONE

Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History is a collection of writings covering the sweep of human history, from the evolution of our earliest ancestors, through the emerging of class society, up to capitalism today.

IN REVIEW

Why is that record important? As Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters says in the book’s first chapter, without this we become “prisoners of the moment in which we live,” unable to see beyond the capitalist exploitation that warps every aspect of our lives.

The book is an introduction to scientific socialism, first put forward in the mid-1800s by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, founders of the modern working-class movement. They were students of science and history not for its own sake, Waters points out, but “because that knowledge was necessary to organize the working class and its allies and help them find the road to their emancipation.”

I first became interested in Marxism in the early 1960s after getting involved in the civil rights movement and becoming a partisan of the Cuban Revolution where workers and peasants, led by Fidel Castro, had taken power.

When I asked my history teacher what she thought of Marxism, she dismissed it. “You can’t have a science of history,” she said. “You are talking about people, not objects. And every person is different. It’s too complicated.”

Fortunately, members of the Socialist Workers Party got into my hands works by Marx and Engels and a pamphlet containing articles by party leader George Novack under the title *The Long View of History*. Now that pamphlet is part of this new book, which updates, amplifies and reinforces the material in



Capitalism has produced many things, good and bad, in the course of its evolution. The most vital of all the social forces it has created is the working class. Above, workers at Putilov locomotive factory in Petrograd, Russia, meet in July 1920 to elect deputies to city’s soviet.

Novack’s articles, providing a powerful tool to those looking for a road to end capitalist exploitation.

Novack indicates key turning points when revolutionary changes took place, from the evolution of mammals, through the early Stone Age societies, to the rise of civilization, to today.

What you learn is that while human history is complex, there are laws of development that can be seen and that point to the class-struggle road forward.

It is drummed into our heads that you can’t change human nature. Yet, as Novack illustrates, the history of the earth and humanity is one of constant change. Marx and Engels saw that advances in how humans provide for food, shelter and other material needs are the driving force behind changes in human societies. The book includes Engels’ essay “The Part Played by Labor in the Transition from Ape to Man,” which describes how collective labor transforming nature was key to the evolution of the first human beings.

For most of humanity’s history, production was based on hunting and gathering. These societies had no ruling class and no private property. This changed decisively a few thousand years ago based on advances in agricultural production. For the first time, humans were able to produce a surplus over what was necessary to survive, leading to the rise of slave labor and a ruling class that

lived off that surplus, as well as armies to defend the property of the ruling few.

Evolution of class struggle

Novack describes the line of evolution after the rise of class society, from slavery to feudalism, and then capitalism. At each stage advances in labor productivity led to the rise of new property relations and new ruling classes that challenged and supplanted outmoded social systems.

“Just as Darwin discovered the law of development of organic nature, so Marx discovered the law of the development of human history,” Engels says in a tribute to Marx reprinted in the book. Economic development in any epoch forms “the foundation upon which the state institutions, the legal conceptions, art, and even the ideas on religion, of the people concerned have been evolved.”

As capitalism spread throughout the world, a modern working class was created, with the social power and capacity to bring an end to class exploitation and oppression.

“The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles,” Marx and Engels wrote at the start of the Communist Manifesto. Such an understanding, Waters points out, is the polar opposite of the “woke” views spreading among privileged middle-class layers today in universities, the media and the Democratic Party.

Pointing to the *New York Times*-sponsored 1619 Project, Waters says its author, Nikole Hannah-Jones, “joins the chorus of those who argue that the driving force behind the entire history of the ‘Western World,’ including the U.S. to this day, has been the ongoing dominance of people with a white skin who act on the belief they are a superior ‘race’ entitled to privilege and power.”

“This rewriting of history is false,” Waters says. “It is not racist attitudes, psychological mechanisms, or ideas — in fact it’s not ideas of any kind — that drive human social relations. It is our material conditions of life that shape our ideas.”

What has been the main force driving social relations in the U.S.? It’s capitalism. Slavery on the American continent was a product of the capitalist market. When it became a fetter on capitalism the slave system was destroyed in the Civil War, the Second American Revolution. Racist oppression continues because it benefits the capitalists. It will take a struggle by working people united across lines of race, nationality and sex to change that.

The Communist Manifesto explains “the proletarian movement is the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interests of the immense majority.”

This has been proven time and again since this was written in 1848, most importantly by the 1917 Bolshevik Russian Revolution in the years before it was throttled by the Stalinist counterrevolution, and by the Cuban Revolution. Both revolutions replaced capitalist rule with workers’ power, bringing gains not only for working people but for peasants, women and oppressed nationalities.

Workers engaged in union struggles to defend wages and conditions today, and those trying to figure out how to end murderous wars like Moscow’s assault on Ukraine and how to prevent the bosses’ destruction of the earth’s natural resources will find this book invaluable. Fighters everywhere need a long view of history to prepare us for new openings to challenge capitalist rule that will develop as the crisis of their system deepens and class struggles pick up.

Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History is a good place to start.

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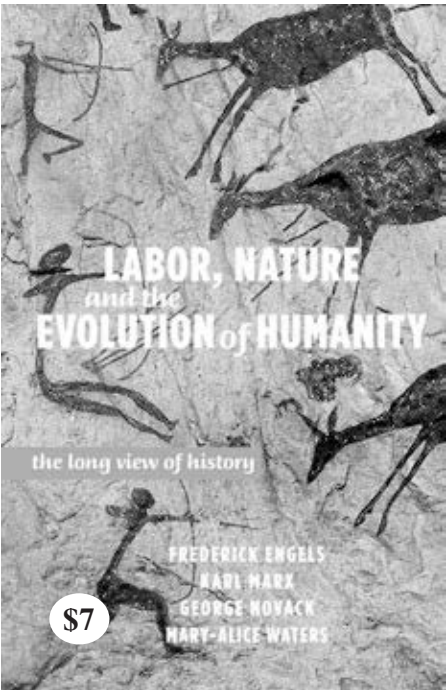
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Where did humanity come from? How did we arrive where we are today? Why is that even important? Because without understanding how human society, since our remotest ancestors, has been created through social labor, working people remain prisoners of the capitalist epoch in which we live.

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May Day points the way forward

The *Militant* salutes the millions of workers who took to the streets on May Day around the world.

International Workers Day was born May 1, 1886, when working people and our unions in the U.S. launched a fight for the eight-hour day. That demand still resonates for millions here and worldwide who face the bosses' drive today to lengthen the work-day, impose debilitating or on-call work schedules, and forced overtime.

Strikes last year at Frito-Lay, Nabisco and other companies by members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union pushed back some of these attacks. But the fight begun in 1886 remains in front of the labor movement.

Resurrected by immigrant workers in the U.S. in 2006, May Day actions highlighted the need to unify native-born and foreign-born workers in common struggle against the bosses. The Socialist Workers Party calls for an amnesty for the 11 million workers in the U.S. who don't have government-recognized papers. This is in the interest of all workers because bosses use their superexploitation of immigrant workers to divide us and drive down the wages and working conditions of all.

Unions "must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions," Karl Marx, a founder of the modern working-class movement, explained in 1866.

Workers taking part in May Day rallies around the world discussed Moscow's war against Ukraine, and many called for deepening the fight to end it. Only by unconditionally defending Ukraine's independence, and fighting for solidarity between working people in Ukraine and Russia, can a working-class course be charted to drive Putin's troops out and bring an end to the biggest land war in Europe in decades.

Sanctions by Washington and other imperialist powers make conditions worse for working people in Russia, endangering building the working-class unity crucial to mobilizing to defeat Moscow's war.

Workers need to break from the bosses' political parties, the Democrats and Republicans. The

exploitation of workers and farmers rests on the ruling capitalist families and their middle-class hangers-on to keep us searching for a "lesser evil" among the parties that defend capitalism.

We need to build our own party, a labor party, that acts on the interests we share in common and advances a course of uncompromising struggle for what our class needs. Along that road, workers and our allies can organize a struggle of millions to overcome the dictatorship of capital and take state power into our own hands.

The biggest May Day action took place in Havana, Cuba, where 600,000 marched to show the strength of support for their socialist revolution. They reaffirmed their determination to resist the U.S. rulers' decadeslong economic war aimed at crushing them, overturning their government and restoring capitalist exploitation.

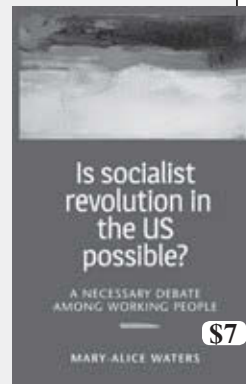
Members of the Socialist Workers Party were proud to participate in the march. The SWP and its 2022 candidates demand an immediate halt to the U.S. embargo and that Washington get out of Guantánamo. They explain that the Cuban Revolution shows what working people are capable of accomplishing when we forge a communist leadership. That powerful example shows what needs to be done everywhere, including in the imperialist heartlands like the United States.

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters

"What lies ahead are struggles that transform us as we fight to transform the twisted social relations of the dog-eat-dog world of capitalism — relations that corrode human solidarity."

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Grand Rapids protest

Continued from front page

en place to Grand Rapids City Commission meetings and outside the Michigan state Capitol in Lansing.

Lyoya, a 26-year-old factory worker and refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was killed by police officer Christopher Schurr April 4 following a traffic stop. Schurr pulled him over, saying the license plate didn't match the car Lyoya was driving. The young man, who was unarmed, tried to leave, and Schurr chased him.

As the *Militant* goes to press May 4 protesters gathered to mark the one-month anniversary where Lyoya died and marched to police headquarters, demanding that Schurr face criminal charges.

The cop tried to tackle Lyoya and fired his stun gun twice at close range. He eventually wrestled Lyoya to the ground, yelled for him to let go of the Taser, and then fired his gun at the back of Lyoya's head. An autopsy confirmed he died from that shot.

Under pressure from protests, the Grand Rapids police department released videos of the shooting from the cop's body camera and other sources April 13. Some 1,500 people attended Lyoya's funeral April 22. A sign below the casket read, "It's our right to live!" in English and Swahili. The case has drawn national attention. Relatives of Breonna Taylor, the emergency medical technician killed by police in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2020, came.

The media has begun publicizing the fact that Lyoya had been arrested several times, mostly for traffic offenses, and had two open warrants out on him, one a domestic-abuse accusation three days earlier. His license had been revoked.

That's irrelevant, Ven Johnson, an attorney for the Lyoya family, told the media. "The officer would not have had the opportunity to do a full search of my client's criminal history," he said. It also doesn't matter why Lyoya ran, Johnson said, because police are not supposed to use deadly force because someone does not comply with their orders. Michigan police officials sent an initial investigation report to the Kent County Prosecutor Christopher Becker's office April 28. Becker said he will start to review the report, but is waiting for more information before deciding whether to file charges against Schurr. In the meantime, the officer remains on paid leave.

Capitalist rulers face political crisis; Workers need our own political party!

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economic stagnation coupled with soaring inflation — nor reverse the long-term decline in capitalist profit rates. To do so would require a significantly deeper assault on the wages and living standards of working people and their families.

Some commentators use Moscow's war on Ukraine to call for a deepening offensive against the working class. "Western leaders must prepare the public for a war economy," headlined a *Financial Times* article by Martin Sandbu May 1. Hard hit by inflation? You "need to adapt," Sandbu tells the well-heeled readers the paper speaks to, and make working people accept a less comfortable future. He urges the U.S. and other governments to openly tell workers that the sanctions their rulers impose on Russia will entail belt-tightening here at home. At the same time working people in Russia bear the brunt of these sanctions, regardless of who the U.S. government says they target.

Neither party offers a confident course for Washington, the world's dominant imperialist power, to hang on to its place at the top of the capitalist world order. This would require decisive steps to combat growing competition from the rising capitalist class in China; as well as take on the Russian rulers' efforts to reimpose control over the former Soviet republics, starting with its war to reconquer Ukraine; and the myriad of other challenges Washington faces from the Middle East to Latin America.

The U.S. rulers mistakenly believed they had won the Cold War after the Soviet Union came apart in 1991. They were certain they could now do as they wished anywhere without fear of serious opposition.

They embarked on what became a series of bloody wars — in Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya, Afghanistan, Syria and more — all of which Washington failed to decisively win. Each one spawned further disorder

and heralded new conflicts to come, the opening guns of World War III. The only way this can be stopped is for working people to organize and fight to take political power into our own hands. That is what the Socialist Workers Party exists to do.

Capitalist parties at war with each other

The only road the Democrats see to win the mid-term elections is to double-down on their yearslong witch hunt of Donald Trump, hoping to get him indicted as an "insurrectionist" and barred from running again in 2024. As a New York grand jury probe into the former president seems to be falling apart, Democrats have opened a new one in Georgia. Fani Willis, the Fulton County district attorney, launched a special grand jury investigation May 2 into allegations that Trump and others tried to overturn the state's 2020 election results.

At the same time, as confidence in Biden continues to slide, Hillary Clinton has stepped up public appearances in preparation for 2024. Sharp differences continue between the Clinton wing of the Democrats and the socialist reform wing around Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Bernie Sanders and others.

The Republicans aren't in better shape, with sharp divisions between those who see no alternative but to continue riding the horse of Donald Trump, and those who think he's the kiss of death.

Both wings of the Republican Party try to advance their electoral chances by taking advantage of workers' widespread disgust with liberals' efforts to impose "woke" policies in schools. These include critical race theory, which treats everyone who is Caucasian as irredeemably "racist," and mandatory course work on "gender identity" in all schools.

At the heart of the capitalist rulers' crisis is their fear that working people will find ways to push back

against years of stagnant wages and grueling working conditions, amid current price hikes, rising household debts, blows to young workers forming a family, and the lingering effects of pandemic lockdowns.

The rulers fear growing numbers of us will recognize that both of their parties have nothing to offer and will join together to build our own political party, a labor party, to fight for what we need.

"On the job and on all political questions workers need to organize independently of the bosses and their parties who try to advance exploitation of workers and farmers in everything they do," Ellie García, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from California, told the *Militant*.

"SWP candidates champion the struggles of workers and our unions for better wages and conditions and build solidarity. Everything we do is aimed at strengthening working people and advancing our class consciousness, so we can build a movement to take political power into our own hands."

Assaults on Trump and Republicans by Democrats all too frequently take the form of attacks on political rights working people have a vital stake in defending.

In a direct assault on First Amendment protections of free speech, President Biden's Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, announced the establishment of a "Disinformation Governance Board" April 27, claiming it's needed to provide "security" for the midterm elections. Its actual purpose is to police the media and expose what Democrats call "fake news" from their opponents.

The board is an extension of the kind of censorship practiced by Facebook and other capitalist media.

Heading the board will be "disinformation expert" Nina Janokowicz. Days later a video emerged of Janokowicz targeting "disinformation" she says was spread by Rudy Giuliani, one of Trump's lawyers.